# WRITTEN STATEMENT

# BY

# THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

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| **TITLE**  | **COVID-19 Vaccination - JCVI advice offering further vaccinations to individuals who are severely immunosuppressed** |
| **DATE**  | **1 September 2021** |
| **BY** | **Eluned Morgan, Minister for Health and Social Services** |

Today, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) have advised that a third COVID-19 vaccine primary dose be offered to individuals, aged 12 years and over, who were severely immunosuppressed at the time of either, or both, of their first two vaccine doses. This is because some individuals who are severely immunosuppressed due to underlying health conditions or certain medical treatments may not produce a full immune response to COVID-19 vaccination. These individuals need additional protection and I welcome this [advice](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/third-primary-covid-19-vaccine-dose-for-people-who-are-immunosuppressed-jcvi-advice/joint-committee-on-vaccination-and-immunisation-jcvi-advice-on-third-primary-dose-vaccination).

The JCVI advice details the groups who will be eligible and our NHS in Wales will work quickly to identify eligible individuals who will be contacted by their Health Boards. The decision on the timing of the third dose will be important for some patients, and will be determined by their specialist clinicians. Their appointment will be at an appropriate time during their treatment plan. There is no need for patients to contact their health board or clinicians to check eligibility. Work will begin immediately to identify and plan for patients to be vaccinated and communications from Health Boards will follow as soon as practicable.

The COVID-19 vaccine continues to be the best way to prevent serious illness and the spread of the virus. Anyone who has not had their vaccine yet is urged to take-up their primary dose offer before we move to begin the booster campaign. If you haven’t yet had your vaccination, you can find more information on how to get your vaccine [here](https://gov.wales/get-your-covid-19-vaccination).

This statement is being issued during recess in order to keep members informed. Should members wish me to make a further statement or to answer questions on this when the Senedd returns I would be happy to do so.